THE AMERICAN
Nature Study
SOCIETY

SPRING NEWS LETTER ☆ MARCH, 1958

ANSS Held Annual Meeting In Indianapolis, December 27-29, 1957

The American Nature Study Society celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary at its annual meeting in Indianapolis December 27-29, 1957, with a special banquet and program entitled "Highlights in Fifty Years of Nature Study," with Dr. Eva Gordon, Dr. Howard Weaver, Dr. William G. Vinal and Dr. E. Laurence Palmer as speakers.

Dr. Palmer and Dr. Vinal were also awarded Honorary Life Memberships in the Society having served as Presidents and holding memberships for over twenty-five years.

Other highlights of the meeting included a panel on *"Stimulating Interest in Nature Study"* with Dr. Malvina Trussell, Dr. Verne Rockcastle, Roland Eisenbeis, Sidney Esten and Edwin C. Alberts as speakers; and a panel "Natural History of Indiana and the Midwest" with Russell Mumford, Carl H. Krekler, Glidden Baldwin and May Thiegard Watts as speakers.

The field trips to Bradford Woods and the annual showing of kodachromes afterward, were highly successful.

DR. WILLIAM G. VINAL

— Photos by Harvey E. Stork

DR. E. LAURENCE PALMER

Dr. Vinal and Dr. Palmer were elected to Honorary Life Membership in the American Nature Study Society by the Council of the Society, at the annual meeting at Indianapolis December 28, 1957. Both men have served as President, members of the Board, and have been members of the Society for over twenty-five years. Many students of both men are now actively participating in A.N.S.S. affairs.

Message From The President

RICHARD L. WEAVER

We had a most successful Fiftieth Anniversary meeting in Indianapolis and wish more of you could have joined the 150 of us who were able to make it. We were gratified with the large attendance at our sessions, 90 at the banquet and 61 on the field trip. We are greatly indebted to Max Forsyth, our local chairman and his wife for arranging for the anniversary banquet, the joint mixer entertainment, and the joint field trip with NABT.

Special thank yous are in order too to Dorothea Mulaik who arranged for an attendance prize of the new mammal field guide by Dr. Palmer which went to Neil Waterbury, President of the Toledo Naturalist Association; and to Malvina Trussell for the President's gavel and scroll prepared from a cane of Liberty Hyde Bailey's; and to Max Forsyth, Howdy Weaver and Doc Palmer for making the field trip so interesting; and to Doc Palmer for preparing the "Fifty Years of American Nature Study" published by Nature Magazine for the meetings and the showing of the four movie-shorts on Nature Study leaders; and to Paul Klinge the general coordinator for the science teaching societies in seeing that everything went off so smoothly.

Business Transacted

The new constitution was adopted providing for a one-year term for Presidents, a President-elect who will serve as Program Director, a first Vice-President who will serve as membership chairman, a second Vice-President who will serve as affiliate chairman, an appointive delegate to the AAAS council, and an increase of dues to $2.00.

The Constitutional Revision Committee of Eva Gordon as chairman, Malvina Trussell, Helen Ross and Howard Weaver agreed to serve a second year to work on any problems arising out of the adoption of the new constitution.

President's Gavel and Scroll

Malvina Trussell volunteered to obtain a gavel and a scroll to be used at annual meetings to be handed down from one President to the next.

All of us were greatly pleased when she unveiled a gavel made from a briar cane of Liberty Hyde Bailey, our first President, secured in 1908 the year of our establishment. The cane was donated by his daughter at Ithaca, New York.

There was enough of the cane left to make a roller for a Scroll, which will hold all the signatures of the Presidents from 1908 to the present and a second part of it for all new Presidents for the next fifty years. All but three of the signatures had been secured when the gavel and scroll were presented to the Presi-

(continued on page 4)

AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

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The American Nature-Study Society: Beginnings

Adapted from an address, Highlights in Fifty Years of Nature-Study in Schools, presented by Eva L. Gordon at the 50th Anniversary Banquet of the Society, at Indianapolis, December 28, 1957.

By 1908, when the American Nature-Study Society came into being, Nature-study had won a recognized place in curricula of elementary schools throughout the United States and in parts of Canada. In the schools some excellent teaching was done, but much was indifferent, even poor. Leaders everywhere had come to feel a need for better definition of the subject and for better-trained teachers.

Among these leaders was Professor Maurice A. Bigelow, professor of biology at Teachers College, Columbia. Professor Bigelow thought that coordination of effort and exchange of ideas among those interested in nature-study in the schools would contribute greatly to the improvement of the work. Accordingly he founded, in 1905, a periodical which he called *The Nature-Study Review*.

The new periodical was to be "a bimonthly journal devoted to all phases of nature-study in elementary schools." Its editorial committee, chosen to represent various fields of science, was composed of Liberty Hyde Bailey, agriculture, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; H. W. Fairbanks, geologist, Berkeley, California; C. F. Hodge, biology, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts; J. F. Woodhull, physical science, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City; and M. A. Bigelow, biology, Teachers College, Columbia, managing editor. An imposing list of more than sixty "advisors and collaborators," chosen from widespread geographical areas, "to be representative of all the sciences whose fields are involved in elementary education," included "professional educators with practical acquaintance with the problems of elementary schools," and "university men who are primarily interested in nature-study as a preliminary phase of science teaching."

On page 1 of Volume I, number 1, January 1905, we read that the *Review* proposed to deal with all phases of nature-study — spelled out as "all the 'natural-science' studies of the lower school: the natural history of plants and animals . . . , school gardening and closely allied elementary agriculture, elementary physical science, the physical side of geography, and physiology and hygiene with special reference to the human body."

It was not long before Professor Bigelow and his associates became convinced that "nature-study workers ought to be united in a strong national organization." The steps by which this conviction became a reality as The American Nature-Study Society are recorded in Volumes III and IV of *The Nature-Study Review*.

In the March number of Volume III (1907) Professor Bigelow put the question, "Should an American Nature-Study Society be organized?" before "the more than two thousand readers of this issue of the *Review*." He cited as "some reasons" for such an organization: "(1) in order to get more closely in touch with each other's work, (2) in order to get more educators and scientific men into touch with the nature-study movement, and (3) in order to demonstrate the extent and strength to which the nature-study movement has already attained." He presented a broad outline for the development of such an organization, and suggested terms under which *The Nature-Study Review* might become its official organ. Finally, he proposed an organizing committee of ten, to be chosen by vote of prospective members.

The April 1907 *Nature-Study Review* reported a large and enthusiastic response. An organizing committee was chosen in response to Professor Bigelow's suggestion and an organization meeting was held in Chicago when the national scientific societies met the following December.

The December 1907 *Review* carried a proposed constitution.

The January 1908 *Review* (Volume IV, number 1) carried a report of the December meeting, which had culminated in the organization of the American Nature-Study Society — "American" to be "taken in the broad geographical sense and not limited to the United States." Officers for 1908 were listed: Liberty Hyde Bailey of Cornell University, president, "elected by unanimous vote," as were five vice-presidents, a secretary-treasurer (M. A. Bigelow), and ten directors. The future of *The Nature-Study Review* as the official organ of the new Society was outlined — a function it was to exercise until December 1923, when the newly established *Nature Magazine* assumed part of its services. The constitution adopted by the Society — essentially that suggested in the December *Review* — was printed in full. The American Nature-Study Society was embarked officially on the first of the fifty years of service we are commemorating tonight — service for the advancement not only of its first concern — "all phases of nature-study in schools, especially all studies of nature in elementary schools," but also of a vastly broader nature education that reaches beyond the classroom, and includes active "work for the restoration of wildlife and conservation of natural resources."

Briefs

We are happy to announce that the Highlands Biological Station located at Highlands, North Carolina, has been active in its program of greatly expanding laboratory and living-quarter facilities for research workers. A large grant from the National Science Foundation makes this building program possible. Your editor and his wife spent seven weeks last summer at this station and found the weather ideal for field and laboratory study on the Isopods of the Southern Appalachians. Anyone interested in carrying on zoological or botanical research in the Southern Appalachians should write to Dr. Thelma Howell, Director, for information and application blanks. Some money may be available for grants-in-aid for such research

Project Ideas

Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg of San Francisco, California writes about an activity for children called "Housing and Tenants." A group of youngsters is divided into two teams each of which chooses a certain tree or shrub as the location for their project. This tree is the *housing*. Every item that group can observe about the tree is listed — shape of tree, shape of leaf, fruit, arrangement of leaves on stem, pattern of bark. These housing items draw three points each. The tenants are the animals which visit the tree; ants, spiders, birds, squirrels, galls (as a result of a visit). A tenant does not have to live in the tree but must have used the tree for a place to alight at some time. For each tenant the team receives 5 points. This game must be played over a span of time. It is well suited to tent groups at camp which can adopt a tree just outside their tent and make their observations at odd moments.

* * *

Campers at the AUDUBON CAMP OF CALIFORNIA, Norden, California, have compiled some good teaching tips:

List everything alive in your house except people. Be sure to look over the plants in your refrigerator and pantry.

Arrange a star map on the floor using pebbles for the stars.

Make a plant map of the school yard, neighborhood, camp site.

Include an element of recreation on your field trips. Ask members of the group to "act out" an insect, other animal, or plant.

A two-quart milk carton, with a lid cut in one side makes a satisfactory vasculum (plant carrier).

* * *

Cap'n Bill Vinal writes about dandelions in OUTDOOR - INDOOR ADVENTURES WITH WILD PLANTS (An Audubon Nature Bulletin — 15 cents, National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York City):

Gather a bouquet of dandelions to show the unfurling of the flower from the earliest bud to the mature seed. Eight or ten specimens will show the complete life history. Arrange them from youngest to oldest . . . Break apart a dandelion blossom and remove the smallest yellow strap. That is one flower. Now you know whether dandelion blossoms are a flower or a bouquet. Next you might test your eyesight. How many teeth are there on the end of the strap? That number indicates the number of petals that the ancestral dandelion had. The two "horns" at the top of the flower are the stigmas which catch the pollen brought from other flowers by insects. If you have a hand lens you can count the stamens that make up the "collar" just below the stigmas. There are ten. Touch the stamens with your fingers and learn where the insects get their pollen . . . decide what the white thing at the bottom of each flower is going to become. . . . Take the oldest seed you can find. Let it float in the air. Which part of the parachute hits the ground first? Nature knows how to plant seeds. Examine another seed. Which end has teeth? Test your eyesight again. Which way do the teeth point? Perhaps the teeth help anchor the seed.

On the Adult Level

Russell Pengally, President of the Klamath Nature Society, Klamath Falls, Oregon, reports a new kind of bird species count they call the "week count." The count starts one Sunday and ends on the following Sunday. The group believes this gives a much better picture of the species present than is possible when the count is made entirely on one day. To further facilitate matters, those taking part in the count are assigned to specific areas. Usually the same people keep the same area time after time and in this way get to know just where to look for certain species and so get a larger list. The count ends with a pot luck supper. This gives them a chance to compare lists, to chat and discuss the fun and problems met with in the field. The completed list is published in the local paper. They find this adds to the prestige of the Society and affords a means of learning of new people interested in birds, who may report birds they have seen and which the counters missed.

Off The Press

"Arizona Flora" by Kearney, Peebles and collaborators is a must for southwestern naturalists who wish to identify their plants. The book describes 3370 species of plants and contains 1064 pages and sells for $7.50 by the University of California Press, Berkeley 4, California. A similar book, "A Manual of the Flowering Plants of California" by Jepson contains 1238 pages and sells for $6.50.

* * *

Our good member, H. E. Jaques, writes that by holding some busy sessions during the past year, he is now almost ready to send the printer a new book, HOW TO KNOW THE ECONOMIC PLANTS. It should be on the market early this spring. Those who have become acquainted with his *eighteen* other "How to Know . . . " books will look forward to this new effort. Another in the series, just off the press is HOW TO KNOW THE FRESH-WATER FISHES by Samuel Eddy.

The "How to Know . . . " series are available through Wm. C. Brown Co. Publishers, 215 West 9th, Dubuque, Iowa.

Briefs

The Massachusetts Audubon Society invites anyone interested in sanctuary management to attend its annual meeting of sanctuary directors on September 26 and 27, 1958, at its Cooks Canyon Sanctuary, Barre, Mass. Camping and dormitory facilities will be available and meals will be served at cost. Registration should be made in advance with David Miner, Director Cooks Canyon Sanctuary, Barre, Mass.

Resident sanctuary directors of the Massachusetts Audubon Society have met as a group with sanctuary committee chairmen for the past two years. Twenty to thirty have attended each meeting and because of the reservoir of experience within the group, much of value has been brought out.

This seems like a fine opportunity for sanctuary directors from many areas to come together, get acquainted, share experience and find answers to some of their problems.

* * *

Nineteen hundred fifty eight marks the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Liberty Hyde Bailey, first president of the American Nature Study Society. His book, "The Nature-Study Idea" and his work with the A.N.S.S., which he helped to found, have played a big part in bringing to American Schools a greater appreciation of the out of doors and the wonders of the natural world. Many would attribute to him the beginning of the nature study concepts which our Society perpetuates. His lifetime of devotion to horticulture and his extensive writing on the subject have been the very backbone of gardening America. Members of the A.N.S.S. and of America's garden clubs meet on common ground in honoring the memory of this great man who has meant so much to their interests and activities.

* * *

Many of us scarcely appreciate the work which the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs is doing to preserve the last vestages of wild America to be found in our mountains or along the rocky coasts. This organization is composed of thirty five member clubs and it publishes the WESTERN OUTDOOR QUARTERLY. The new president who was elected at the 26th convention last August is Mrs. John (Polly) Dyer of Auburn, Wash.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(continued from page 1)

dent by Dr. Trussell, the immediate past President.

Dr. Baldwin Now In Charge of Membership Work

Dr. Glidden Baldwin succeeds Dr. H. Seymour Fowler as chairman of the Membership Committee which was started last year by Dr. Fowler. Glidden can use your help and will be glad to send you a supply of the new membership folder if you can use some.

A New Editor Elected

With Stanley Mulaik being elected President-elect, we had to find a new Editor. We were most fortunate in having Dorothy Treat, his worthy opponent, "volunteer" to serve as Editor IF WE would all volunteer to help her by supplying news. We volunteered for *you* so will you send her some notes about yourself, about your work and how you feel ANSS can help get more good nature instruction into schools, clubs, camps, and youth programs.

Pictures Of Nature Leaders

Cap'n Bill Vinal used some of his photographs of camping and nature leaders in his talk at the ANSS banquet, which he has donated to the American Camping Association, Headquarters at Bradford Woods, Indiana.

Likewise Doc Palmer has volunteered to give to ANSS the four special 16 mm reels of movies taken of nature leaders in all parts of the country. These were shown also at the Indianapolis meetings.

Plans For 1958

All of us look forward to more members and more affiliated clubs now that our two vice-presidents — Glidden Baldwin and Emery Will, have your mandate to push ahead, and they have the new membership folders prepared by Howdy Weaver to use in their work.

Stan Mulaik has already been collecting ideas for the annual meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. next December 26 - 30. Dick Weaver, Dick Westwood, and Drew Chick have attended the first planning session on February 4 to start the local planning for meetings.

We have a real challenge as an organization to make our influence felt in the strengthening and designing of the science programs in the public schools, to see that natural history becomes a challenging part of the science emphasis. We know most of us entered careers in science through our interests in nature and perhaps we can help others make similar choices by our continuous promotion and interesting, sound, and stimulating programs in the study of natural history at all levels.

A.N.S.S. Presidents

The following roster of presidents of the A.N.S.S. is a list of outstanding naturalists and educators of whom our organization can well be proud. Here are the familiar names of persons whose writings and teachings form a background for much of our nature study teachings today:

1908, Liberty Hyde Bailey; 1909, C. F. Hodge; 1910, Otis W. Caldwell; 1911-12, B. M. Davis; 1913-14, Anna Botsford Comstock; 1915-17, Liberty Hyde Bailey;

1918-19, S. C. Shumacher; 1920-21, J. Andrew Drushel; 1922-23, William Gould Vinal, Cap'n Bill; 1924-25, George Green; 1926-27, M. R. Van Cleve; 1927-29, Bertha Chapman Cady;

1930-31, A. F. Satterthwait; 1932-33, Ellis Persing; 1934-35; E. Laurence Palmer; 1936-38, Edith M. Patch; 1939-40, Ellen Eddy Shaw; 1941-43, George Free; 1944-46, Charles Mohr; 1947-48, Edwin Way Teale;

1949-50, Richard Westwood; 1951, Ellsworth Jaeger; 1952-53, Roger T. Peterson; 1954, Ruth Hopson; 1955-56, Malvina Trussell; 1957 - 19—, Richard Weaver.

Baldwin Is New Membership Chairman

The A.N.S.S. members can be happy with the choice they made in selecting Dr. Glidden Baldwin as first Vice President and so automatically chairman of the national membership committee. Dr. Baldwin has long been a strong supporter of A.N.S.S. and his interests in nature study have been varied and extensive. Each of the last ten years he, with the help of his fine wife, has made a full length movie on a phase of nature.

In 1956 he and his family, which includes two boys, made a tour of Africa and produced a movie, "Four on Saffari." This fine document of African wildlife helped to earn for him a coveted spot as a member of The Explorers Club, New York City.

Every member of the A.N.S.S. may consider himself a member of the membership committee. Dr. Baldwin urges each of you to get a new member and promises a fitting award to the person who brings the largest number of new members into the society. A random sampling of members will be approached to serve as state or regional chairmen, yet membership is everybody's business.

Application for Annual Membership

Membership in the American Nature Study Society includes a membership card, a quarterly NEWSLETTER and the magazines you select. Please note you can get your membership for less than $2.00, even free, by selecting the proper group.

GROUP	COST		MEMBERSHIP COST
1	$2.00	Membership only (NEWSLETTER)	$2.00
2	3.00	Membership with Cornell Rural Leaflet (4 issues)	2.00
3	4.00	Membership with Canadian Audubon Magazine (5 issues)	1.00
4	5.50	Membership with Canadian Audubon & Cornell Leaflet	1.50
5	5.50	Membership with Nature Magazine (10 issues)	.50
6	7.00	Membership with Nature Magazine & Cornell Leaflet	1.00
7	8.00	Membership with Nature Magazine & Canadian Audubon	free
8	8.50	Membership with Nature Magazine & Canadian Audubon & Cornell Leaflet	free

Circle group desired, send application with name and address and check to

Dr. Howard E. Weaver,
202 Men's Old Gym, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois

AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY
State Teachers College, Fitchburg, Mass.

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